



County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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WILLIAM T FUJIOKA
Chief Executive Officer

June 27, 2008

To: Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke, Chair
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: William T Fujioka
Chief Executive Officer

Board of Supervisors
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Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
Third District

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Fourth District

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Fifth District

TELE-PSYCHIATRY – ANTELOPE VALLEY PILOT

On February 6, 2008, on motion by Supervisor Antonovich, your Board directed the Chief Executive Officer, the Director of Mental Health and the Chief Information Officer to collaborate with the Hospital Association's Behavioral Services Committee (HASC) on drafting policy and procedures that would facilitate the use of tele-psychiatry to provide prompt screening assessment and treatment in non-designated emergency departments in underserved regions; explore the possible use of Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) funds to establish a tele-psychiatry pilot project for Palmdale or Antelope Valley Mental Health Centers (MHC), urban areas and other underserved portions of the County; and report to your Board in 30 days.

On March 4, 2008, the Department of Mental Health (DMH) reported back on the status and advised your Board of: 1) upcoming meetings with HASC to determine what policies and procedures, if any, may be necessary; 2) the determination that the State draft guidelines for use of MHSA funds allowed for tele-psychiatry projects; and 3) on-going efforts with the Chief Information Office and various stakeholders to develop a MHSA Information Technology (IT) plan and move this program forward. Tele-psychiatry projects will be included as part of this plan.

In the interim, DMH is proceeding with a Temporary Tele-psychiatric Coverage (TTC) Pilot between the Antelope Valley and DMH Headquarters which will be funded from existing non-MHSA sources. Upon State approval of the MHSA IT Plan, it is anticipated that MHSA funding will be made available for these services.

As noted by Supervisor Antonovich, tele-psychiatry is an innovative approach to provide services to rural communities. The TTC Pilot will provide tele-psychiatric services for DMH clients at the Antelope Valley MHC when a regular psychiatrist is temporarily absent.

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service"

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Each Supervisor
June 27, 2008
Page 2

The requisite technology has been obtained and installed, necessary policies and procedures are being finalized, and testing has been initiated. The TTC Pilot is expected to commence by July 1, 2008. The Department will publicize the Antelope Valley TTC Pilot, as well as the availability of other TTC projects as they become operational. In addition, DMH will provide periodic updates to your Board on these projects.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me or your staff may contact David Seidenfeld of this office at (213) 974-1457 or dseidenfeld@ceo.lacounty.gov.

WTF:SRH:SAS
MLM:DS:yb

c: Director, Department of Mental Health Services
Interim Chief Information Officer

Telepsy Motion_mbs